(b) and (c) No, Madam. In comparison to the production of 96.38 million tones of rice in India during 2007, as per the information received from Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO), the production of rice in China and Vietnam during 2007 was estimated at 124.93 and 23.91 million tones respectively.

However, to increase the production of rice in the country several steps have been taken and programmes such as National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA), and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) etc. are under implementation.

Production and procurement of wheat and rice

719. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the production and procurement of wheat and rice during 2008-09, 2007-08 and 2006-07;

(b) the steps taken and incentives given by Government during these years to boost production and procurement; and

(c) the production targets fixed for these crops during those years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The production and procurement of wheat and rice during the years 2006-07, 2007-08, and 2008-09 are given in the table below:

(Million Tonnes)

Year	Wheat		Rice	
	Production	Procurement	Production	Procurement
2006-07	75.81	9.23	93.35	25.08
2007-08	78.57	11.13	96.69	28.49
2008-09	77.63*	22.69	99.37*	31.36**
2009-10	–	25.16**	–	–

*3rd advance estimates

** as on 7.7.09

NOTE: The production relates to the agricultural year and procurement relates to the marketing year.

(b) In order to boost agricultural production, several steps have been taken and programmes such as National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) etc. are under implementation.

To boost procurement of wheat and rice, the following steps have been taken:

- Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of paddy of common grade and wheat have been increased from Rs.580 and Rs.750 during 2006-07 to Rs.850 and Rs.1080 per quintal respectively during

2008-09. In the above period, the MSP of paddy of Grade A variety has been increased from Rs.610 to Rs.880 per quintal.

- Over and above the MSP, a bonus of Rs.100 per Quintal in procurement of rice in Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2007-08 and Rs. 50 per Quintal in KMS 2008-09 has been given.
- NAFED was permitted to procure wheat on behalf of FCI in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Bihar in the Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2008-09.
- Export of non-basmati rice was restricted and later banned from 01.04.2008.
- Wheat exports on private account has been banned till further order.

(c) The production targets for wheat and rice fixed for the years 2006-07 to 2008-09 are given in the table below:

(Million Tonnes)

Crop	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Wheat	75.53	75.50	78.50
Rice	92.80	93.00	97.00

Adverse effect of failure of moonsoon on crops

720. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has initiated an action plan to cope with deficiency in water which has threatened to affect the Kharif crop;

(b) if so, whether Government has convened a meeting of States affected by deficient rains and discussed the adverse impact of the failure of the monsoon on crops;

(c) if so, the details of discussion held and outcome thereof; and

(d) the strategies to be adopted to, face the situation, if the current monsoon fails?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, convened the meeting of the Principal Secretaries/ Secretaries alongwith the technical persons of the States in the Central and Southern parts of the country on 125.6.2009 to review the impact of slow progress of monsoon on the sowings of agriculture crops and alternate plans if the current trends continues. In view of the prevalent weather conditions, the States have drawn up contingency Crop Plan for implementation, if the rains are delayed/not received by 15th July, 2009. Following this, three video conferences were held involving the States of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Assam and Bihar.